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18 February 1955

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Coordination of Collection Requirements Meeting
Held in Room 1116 B Building, 12:10 a.m.,
18 February 1955

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REFERENCE: Memorandum for IAC Agency Representatives
Dated 4 February 1955, Subject: "Review of the
Coordination of Collection of Intelligence Informa-
tion" signed by [REDACTED], Special
Assistant to the Director for Planning and Coordi-
nation

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PARTICIPANTS

[REDACTED]

1. The group discussed coordination of collection requirements in anticipation of IAC representatives discussion next week. The discussion, although inconclusive, was summed up by [REDACTED] as follows: Some view the collection situation as chaotic and in need of over-all central direction by a group representative of all the intelligence agencies and in the light of DCID 4/4 (Tab B of the referenced paper is a proposal for improvement in the light of this view). [REDACTED] expressed his opinion that the description of intelligence collection as chaotic, exaggerates the situation and that an approach to the problem involving an over-all codification of research and collection requirements would be an immense task resulting in little improvement, if any, in collection. He recognized that some of the participants (GCI in particular) strongly supported such a procedure but he felt that other participants, as well as himself, considered the approach impractical.

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2. [REDACTED] likened placing of requirements and the collection of intelligence information to a free market in which the intelligence producer seeks out the best supplier of needed intelligence information and the collector sells his wares to those who had need of them. He felt that the majority of the participants considered existing arrangements working rather well instead of chaotic. Improvement in intelligence collection could be effected, he believed, as follows:

a. Each producer and each collector, including groups or collectors such as SIC and IPC, should continually strive to improve their operations.

b. Where there is no provision for receiving complaints of either producers or collectors, such complaints might be referred to an inter-agency body for resolution and to the IAC, if appropriate. An example of a complaint might be that SIC felt the collectors were not giving SIC requirements adequate priority. An appeal might be made by the SIC to an inter-agency group to weigh the SIC requirements against other requirements competing for the collectors' resources. In some cases it would develop that the producer had not exhausted the procedures which already exist to meet his needs. In others the remedy might be easily effected and in relatively few instances, he anticipated, there would be cases which might eventually require the attention of the IAC.

3. At the close of the meeting, [REDACTED] advised the Group that he would be in touch with the participants again before the IAC representative meeting with regard to his approach at that meeting.

[REDACTED]

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Office of the Director
Planning and Coordination Staff
(10 February 1955)

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